

AIRSHIP HERITAGE TRUST

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON TEAMS TUESDAY 17 June 2025 AT 7:00 PM

The Company Secretary welcomed members joining the Annual General Meeting and informed them that the meeting would be recorded.

The Company Secretary then reminded attendees that all lines should be muted, and when it came to proposing actions and voting, they should please raise their hand or use the reactions icon in the Teams window.

Item 1: Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Paul Ross, Jimmy Royer, Cheryl Ganz, Georges Diemer, John Taylor, Peter Lobner, Professor John Simons, Francisco Redondo, Martin Penn, Richard Van Truen, Peter Ansoff, Paul Fielden, Robert Egan, Simon Tullett and Tony Francis.

Item 2: Approve the Minutes of the 2024 AGM

It was proposed by Nigel Hills that the minutes be approved as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Chis Angell and the minutes were accepted by consensus.

3. Receive the Chairman's report

AHT Office

The Chairman addressed the AGM and informed members that the AHT collection and archive continued to grow in 2024, with further donations from members and the public, meaning that the Trust was able to add to the excellent office, research and digitisation area, along with storage for AHT items. The library and collection are in good condition, and we are now ready to start assembling a comprehensive archive of materials. As you would have seen in Dirigible, the Trust were gifted some wonderful items such as the R100 girder piece and R29 napkin rings. The Chairman then thanked member Nigel Caley, who came down in the summer to help sort through some of the files and folders and help catalogue the materials in levels of importance and rarity.

YouTube Video Channel and videos.

Our primary objective is “to promote the study of airships and present them to the public”. Since going live, there has been a continued growth in viewers and subscribers to our YouTube channel. We now have over 5,000 subscribers and so far, our videos have been viewed nearly 616,000 times, and quite a staggering 36,000 hours of watch time. This shows the power of YouTube and online content reaching a wider global and, often very young people. Additions were made to the video library, and when time permits, more content online will be added. The Chairman then personally thanked Stephan Niemeyer, who helps create the wonderful animations, which really bring the videos to life. This takes a huge amount of work, and “spare time” so thank you so much, Stephan.

Online Virtual Museum

As you would have read in the latest edition of *Dirigible*, the Trust undertook a project to build a “virtual” museum. Stephan and the Chairman worked on the premise that “if money were no object, what would it look like” so we found a great hosting platform called “Spatial” which allowed us to build and keep building an online museum. It’s been a great fun project and I hope we can reach a new audience. It launched in February this year and so far, have had over 600 online visitors.

Talks

In the non-virtual world, 2024 saw that physical talks are still in demand and the Chairman gave a talk to the Ipswich and District Historical Transport Society. The Trust is therefore fulfilling its objective of promoting airships to the public.

British Naval Airships – Brian Turpin

All the first run of Brian Turpin’s excellent volume set of British Naval Airships has been sold, and a second run was ordered and is selling well. In fact we had received another order to be sent to Canada that day..

The Chairman then welcomed new members. In 2024 there were 8 new members. The Chairman then thanked the other members of the Board of Trustees, Vice Chairman Brian Harrison for taking over as Company Secretary, managing our legal responsibilities as a Trust and Charity and for recording, logging and minuting our meetings, Giles Camplin for diligently and creatively producing the excellent *Dirigible* magazine three times a year,

now in its 105th edition, and as you would have read has reached a staggering 20th year of editor in chief.

Our Treasurer, Chris Angell, deserves thanks for handling all our banking and treasurer duties, which have become a lot more active since we took on the running of an office. The Chairman also thanked both John Baker and Nigel Hills, who met regularly virtually and continued to work and support the Trust.

Thanks, were then given to our President, Paul Ross, who undertakes the role as “monuments officer” for keeping a watchful eye on the R101 tomb, arranging its maintenance and even physically doing it himself. His many words of wisdom and support, guidance and encouragement for the Chairman are much appreciated.

Help needed.

As you know, last year the Trustees lost both Roger Allton and Martin Penn, and their roles were taken on by Chris Angell, Brian Harrison and the Chairman. This leaves us with a very small team who are trying to do everything, and so we are, as you would have read in the latest Dirigible, looking for help to run the Trust. We are looking for members to step forward to offer a small amount of their time as either a Trustee or as a helper, as you can imagine, most of the work is done by the core team. If we don't get help, then we can't reach out to the public and to our members.

Trustees meet 4 times a year online, and the meetings are an hour and a half, but we are also looking for volunteers who can help with scanning at the office or even with helping write content for the website, for Dirigible or giving a talk to a local club or association. If you can offer some spare time one weekend, please do reach out to the Trust. This could be half a morning or a couple of hours a week. We'd like to set up displays at local libraries and we have photos to share, but it's the logistics. If you want to help or if it's something you would like to do, then again please let us know. If you can help and can offer one of the world's most valuable commodities, which is time, please do contact any member of the Trustee team.

Item 4 - Receive the Report and Accounts for the Trustees.

All were available to download online from the website.

Chris Angell informed the membership that the accounts had been certified by Collett Hulance, the Trust's accountants, and were available on the Trust's website. The accounts were then unanimously approved by the membership.

Item 5- Election of Trustees

In accordance with the articles of association, we re-elect 1/3 of the Trustees each year. Those up for election this year were John Baker and Nigel Hills. All agreed to stand again. This was proposed by Chris Angell and seconded by Alastair Lawson.

This was carried unanimously.

Item 6- Appoint Collet Hulance as Reporting Accountants

Proposer: Chris Angell

Seconder: Alastair Lawson

That Collett Hulance be appointed as the Reporting Accountants for the coming year was formally approved and carried unanimously.

Item 7 – Transact Any Other Business

The Chairman was informed by the Company Secretary that no other business had been advised in writing by the due date, but he invited questions from the floor.

Kent O’Grady addressed the lack of Trustees in the AHT and was willing to help, although being situated in Canada would make it more difficult. The Chairman was pleased to say that any help would be appreciated, and certainly work as a Trustee could be done remotely. Anyone interested should contact him to find out how to achieve this.

Item 8 – Closure of meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.